



# 2013 Accomplishments Report

*Building Stronger Communities Through Partnerships*

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Welcome to the EPA Region 6 FY3 Superfund Accomplishments Report. The following pages frame some of the important work we do to protect the environment and build sustainable communities.

EPA's dedicated staff believes in protecting the environment and working closely with our partners in the States, Tribes, local governments, other agencies and communities to achieve a better, safer environment. EPA is continually challenged to innovate and find new and better ways to serve our communities. In conjunction with our partners, we will keep providing a high level of environmental stewardship to achieve these goals.

The future holds challenges for all levels of government to meet public expectations. This report provides examples of all of these abilities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carl Edlund', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Carl Edlund, Division Director  
EPA Region 6 Superfund Program

*Superfund Division is a team — dedicated to providing leadership for the protection of human health and the environment through prevention and preparedness, investigation, enforcement, cleanup, reuse and education.*

# ARKANSAS

POPULATION: 2,959,373

COMMUNITIES SERVED: 56

## Experience, Collaboration and Fast Action Save All But Three Homes After ExxonMobil Oil Spill in Mayflower, Arkansas



In March 2013, a 20-inch pipeline owned by ExxonMobil Pipeline ruptured discharging approximately 5,000 barrels of Canadian crude oil. The spill impacted a neighborhood before discharging into Lake Conway and its tributaries. An EPA On Scene Coordinator was provided for the ensuing spill response. Twenty-two homes were forced to be evacuated during the response. A unified command was set up, comprised of the local judge, Arkansas Department of Environment Quality, Exxon and EPA. Assisting agencies included Arkansas Department of Health, Arkansas Fish and Game, US Fish and Wildlife, US Coast Guard, US Department of Transportation and Environment

Canada. In addition to the EPA Region 6 personnel responding, the region received assistance from Region 7 and EPA's Emergency Response Team.

There were several challenges associated with the incident, including the type and origin of material spilled, and the impact to the neighborhood and surrounding community. Nearly 700 personnel were deployed to the incident, at the peak of the response. Ultimately, three homes were demolished because of oil contamination below their foundations. Response operations were completed in mid-November after all recoverable oil had been removed and the remaining homes were deemed safe for residents to return. EPA Region 6 and the Department of Justice have now joined with the State of Arkansas to file a civil lawsuit for violation of Section 311 of the Clean Water Act, seeking monetary penalties and injunctive relief against ExxonMobil.







## EPA/Pulaski County Brownfields Program Assists Little Rock Change Downtown Blight to Shining Bright!

Pulaski County Brownfields Program has been doing great work for years, with a \$3-million EPA Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Grant. Here are a few of their successes, all located in Little Rock's Federal Empowerment Zone.

### Our House Homeless Child Care Facility

Our House received the first RLF sub-grant by the Pulaski County Brownfields Program. Our House, with the help of a \$150,000 sub-grant has leveraged a \$4.1 million from HUD for a childcare facility that will serve approximately 90 homeless children and 50 children from the community. The new center will complete their campus expansion and will provide support and jobs to an underserved area of Little Rock.

### Main Street Lofts

Utilizing an abandoned, historic building, the developer, with the assistance of a \$916,000 loan from the Pulaski County RLF, remediated asbestos, lead and biological waste. They now are in the process of completing renovations on over 250,000 square feet of commercial and residential space. They were also able to leverage the assistance from EPA Greening of America's Capital Program and NEA's Our

Town Grant, with a total over \$21-million leveraged, thus far.

### K Lofts

Starting with a historic building, the developers borrowed \$275,000 to remove asbestos, lead and biological waste. It has been transformed into a multi-use commercial and residential property. In the process, it created 45 construction jobs, leveraged \$600,000 in historic tax credits and a total of \$3,000,000.

### Capitol Lofts

With just under \$400,000 in an RLF loan, remediation is underway for asbestos, lead and mold abatement. Renovations for the historic building are planned as commercial and residential space, totaling over 64,000 square feet. Capitol Lofts was also assisted by the EPA Greening of America's Capital and NEA Our Town grants. In addition, they were awarded an EPA Hazardous Assessment Grant and received Historic Tax Credits.

Pulaski County is a model for the effective use of EPA Revolving Loan Fund Grants and how they can make a major impact on a blighted area of a community. We look forward to more great things in the Little Rock area to come.

Lonoke  
Madison  
Magnolia  
Mammoth Springs  
Mena  
Mt. Holly  
Nashville  
Newport  
Norphlet  
North Little Rock  
Ola  
Omaha  
Osceola  
Paragould  
Pine Bluff  
Plainview  
Reader  
Rogers  
Salem  
Smackover  
Springdale  
Stamps  
Texarkana  
Wabbaseka  
Walnut Ridge  
West Helena  
West Memphis  
Wynne

Abbeville  
 Alexandria  
 Amelia  
 Amite  
 Angie  
 Arnaudville  
 Ascension Parish  
 Avery Island  
 Baton Rouge  
 Belcher  
 Bayou Sorrell  
 Belle Chasse  
 Bogalusa  
 Bossier City  
 Breaux Bridge  
 Broussard  
 Bunkie  
 Butte La Rose  
 Cameron Parish  
 Campti  
 Cankton  
 Carville  
 Chalmette  
 Convent  
 Covington  
 Crowley  
 Darrow  
 DeRidder  
 Delcambre  
 Denham Springs  
 DeQuincy  
 Des Allemands  
 Doyline  
 Dubach  
 Duson  
 East Baton Rouge  
 Edgerly  
 Eunice  
 Farmerville  
 Franklin  
 French Settlement  
 Frost

# LOUISIANA

**POPULATION: 4,625,470**

**COMMUNITIES SERVED: 166**

## Bayou Corne Sinkhole Draws National Attention



The Napoleon Salt Dome runs for miles below the marsh lands of lower Louisiana. Caverns are carved into the dome as salt is mined for multiple uses and can serve as storage of natural gas and other products. A cavern, operated by Texas Brine, Inc., was built a little too close to the edge of the Dome. At a depth of about 1300 feet, the side wall collapsed and as a result, a sinkhole appeared between the Texas Brine facility and the town of Bayou Corne. Natural gas seeps, that have always been present in the area, increased in number and bubbling volume. EPA responded to a request from Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ). LDEQ had been tasked by the Emergency Manager to conduct

air monitoring near the sinkhole and in several locations in the town. EPA took night and weekend shifts, monitoring for the presence of potentially explosive natural gas components, which gave the Incident Management Team information that could be presented to concerned citizens. The reports of radioactive material being disposed of in the cavern concerned the interested parties.

EPA provided the ASPECT plane to fly over the sinkhole and surrounding area. It turned out that the highest concentration of radioactive material was found on farmers' fields where fertilizer containing naturally-occurring radioisotopes had been applied.

## Lafourche Parish Opens New Community Center on Former Brownfields Property



*The Raceland Community Center in the Alidore community was named after Rev. Lloyd Wallace, at its opening in September 2013.*

Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Department wanted to donate property that previously was used in the manufacture of fiberglass boats to the Lafourche Parish Government for a new community center to be located in a low-income neighborhood. The parish contacted South Central Planning and Development Commission Regional Brownfields Program with concerns regarding possible environmental issues at the property.

A Phase I Environmental Assessment, conducted under a Brownfields Hazardous Assessment Grant, identified possible contamination related to materials used in manufacture of fiberglass boats. The subsequent Phase II Environmental Assessment found concentrations of Mercury and Barium in a limited area, as well.

The parish had already obtained an \$800,000 Community Development Block Grant to build the community center, but it was contingent upon the Environmental Record Review (ERR) and cleanup of the property. Once those conditions were met, LDEQ issued an No Further Action letter. The parish applied for a cleanup sub-grant through the SCPDC Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Grant and the clean up was completed.

The 4,000-square-foot center has an auditorium, recreational space and meeting rooms. The \$1 million project cost the parish about \$200,000, with the rest of the money coming from grants.

## Entergy Pays \$275,000 for Gulf States Utilities North Ryan Superfund Site

The Gulf State Utilities (GSU) North Ryan Street Superfund Site is located on the Calcasieu River, in Lake Charles, Louisiana. The Site was originally a manufactured gas plant on the south bank of the Calcasieu River from 1916 to 1931. GSU purchased the property in 1926 and reportedly placed solid waste on site until 1980. The annual production of gas during the years of operation ranged from approximately 50 to 85 million cubic feet.

Since 1980, GSU has operated the Site as the Lake Charles Division Service Center of Entergy Gulf States, Inc., a service yard, an equipment storage facility and includes warehouses and administrative offices.

The coal tar by-products generated during operations were reportedly discharged into marshlands west of the gas plant. Additionally, a wetland area of approximately six acres was used as a landfill for the disposal of electric equipment, poles, appliances, and other waste. The hazardous substances included polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) associated with coal gasification process and Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) associated with landfill activities.

With the approaching deadline of the statute of limitations, Region 6 Superfund Enforcement took a look at the unreconciled costs associated with the Site. EPA sent a demand for payment letter to Gulf State Utilities.

GSU requested that EPA prepare a cost package. EPA determined that \$337,267.12 in past costs were not recovered. After some negotiations, a settlement in principle was reached between EPA and GSU in the amount of \$275,000.

Geismar  
Gilliam  
Gonzales  
Grambling  
Gramercy  
Grand Cane  
Grand Cheniere  
Grand Lake  
Greenwood  
Gretna  
Hackberry  
Hahnville  
Hammond  
Haynesville  
Henderson  
Homer  
Houma  
Iberville  
Iota  
Jena  
Jennings  
Johnson Bayou  
Kaplan  
Klondike  
Lafayette  
Lake Arthur  
Lake Charles  
Laplace  
Lockport  
Logansport  
Longville  
Loreauville  
Lydia  
Madisonville  
Manchac  
Mamou  
Many  
Maringouin  
Marion  
Marksville  
Marrero  
Melrose



## Bayou Verdine Removal Has Begun Utilizing Green Remediation Techniques

Meraux  
Mermentau  
Merryville  
Minden  
Mire  
Monroe  
Morgan City  
Moss Bluff  
Mossville  
Napoleonville  
Natchitoches  
Nebo  
New Iberia  
New Orleans  
New Roads  
Norco  
Oil City  
Olla  
Opelousas  
Paincourtville  
Parks  
Patterson  
Pawhuska  
Pineville  
Plaquemine  
Pleasant Hill  
Pollock  
Ponchatoula  
Port Allen  
Port Sulphur  
Raceland  
Ragley  
Rayne  
Rayville  
Reeves  
Richard  
Ringold  
Roanoke  
Rodessa  
Ruston  
Satsuma  
Scotlandville

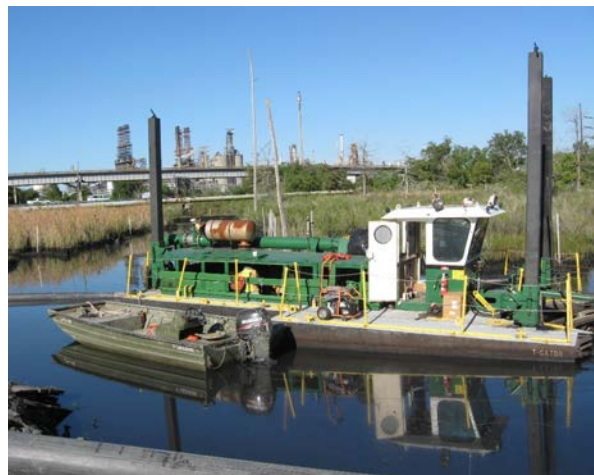
Removal action has begun for Bayou Verdine Area of Concern, part of the Calcasieu Estuary Superfund Site, in Lake Charles, Louisiana. The agreement is in accordance with a Federal Consent Decree signed by EPA and the responsible parties, Phillips 66 and Sasol North America, in 2011. Bayou sediments were impacted by industrial wastes, such as Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) and heavy metals.

The first phase of the removal action, begun in September 2012, consisted of constructing a lined impoundment (pond) inside of the Phillips 66 Refinery to accept the sediments dredged from the Bayou. In April 2013, sediment dredging from Bayou Verdine began. The resulting sediment slurry is piped to the impoundments, then dewatered and the clean water discharged back into Bayou Verdine. Work on the sediment removal phase is expected to continue into 2014. By that time, more than 30,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediments will have been removed piped to the impoundments. When construction is nearly complete, the impoundments will have a soil cover placed over the top of the sediments after dewatering is complete. The Bayou Verdine Removal Action is scheduled for Construction Complete in September 2015.

In addition to fully cooperating with EPA and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality to implement this in a timely and effective manner, the responsible parties are leading the way in green remediation efforts at a Region 6 Superfund Site. Under their own initiative, project leaders from Phillips 66 and Sasol carefully examined each step in the removal action to identify opportunities to conserve resources, save energy, reduce and recycle, and much more. Some highlights of the green remediation components to the removal include:

- Utilizing gravity discharge/settling in the ponds, reducing the use of pumps and emissions

- Minimizing and concentrating onshore work along the Bayou to reduce destruction of riparian habitat and any riparian habitat that is disrupted will be returned to its previous condition at the end of the project
- Stacking cleared trees on site rather than chipping or shipping for disposal, allows for new habitat development
- Utilizing electric motors on boats
- Carpooling to and from the job site
- Recycling of paper and plastic bottles
- Minimizing the staging footprint of material management areas, which allows for the less clearing/grubbing and habitat disturbance
- Whenever possible, trees are pruned instead of removed allowing the root structure to remain intact for future growth
- Utilization of recycled and refurbished equipment and materials such as survey stakes and board mats
- Regulating runtime of motorized equipment
- Using low-sulfur diesel in its equipment
- Relocating fish and other animals from the East Pond to Bayou Verdine before solidification of pond sediments began
- Utilizing existing buildings for housing staff
- Reusing guard shack as treatment plant office
- Regulating power use and air conditioning in office trailers and buildings
- Using biodegradable lubricants in the dredge unit
- Tire recycling



*Dredging and sediment removal in Bayou Verdine.*





## The Biomedical Research Foundation of Louisiana... Northwest Louisiana's Extraordinary Brownfields Success

The Biomedical Research Foundation's mission is to develop a knowledge-based economy in Northwest Louisiana. To foster this plan, the Foundation is providing the infrastructure and the facilities at InterTech Science Park in Shreveport, Louisiana.

Their 25-year-old Master Plan is designed to revitalize the blighted central area of Shreveport and surrounding neighborhoods (an area that has low income and high unemployment), through a combination of technology-based businesses and ventures dedicated to medical, scientific, and biotechnology development. Due to its location in a Brownfields area, environmental assessment and remediation of InterTech properties are essential elements to this development. The Foundation wishes to change this area from a worn area to a refreshed, thriving area. In order to bring this vision to reality, they applied for Brownfields funding, which they received in 2004.

Their journey to begin working on science park, began with a Brownfields Grant in 2004, to clean up properties located in and around a crucial area of development in the InterTech Science Park in Shreveport. One of the largest sites, nearly 30 acres, was Shreveport Creosoting Company Limited, which began operations in the early 1900s through the 1950s. Creosote-treated wood appeared to have been stored on the northeast side of the facility. During construction of Interstate 49, excavation activities uncovered creosote-contaminated soil. The Shreveport Creosoting Company

facility was identified as the possible source, and a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) was conducted by the LDEQ. Soil and ground water investigations have since been conducted at other businesses along Linwood Avenue that are located within the boundaries of the former creosoting plant.

Today, InterTech Science Park covers 800 acres in inner city Shreveport surrounded by ten Community Block Grant eligible neighborhoods. InterTech is anchored by three major medical centers—LSU Health Shreveport, Christus Schumpert Health System, and Willis Knighton Health System. Eighty percent of the medical professionals and all of the teaching physicians and nurses in Northwest Louisiana are located in the InterTech area. In addition to the three medical centers, the site encompasses a medical school, a nursing school, the Virginia K. Shehee Biomedical Research Institute, the Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Imaging Center, an emergency trauma center, and Shriners Children's Hospital. Additionally, InterTech One is a \$12.2 million incubator for new bioscience businesses. Companies in the 60,000-square-foot InterTech One facility share equipment in a core laboratory and have experts analyze their business plans on a yearly basis. Twenty-three companies from life science, pharmaceutical, digital media, and venture capital industries reside in InterTech's eight facilities. Over 350 employees work for these companies, with an average salary of over \$48,000 and a total payroll exceeding \$17.5 million.

Scott  
Shidler  
Shreveport  
Simmesport  
Slaughter  
Slidell  
Sorrento  
Southern  
Springfield  
Springhill  
St. Gabriel  
St. Martinville  
St. Rose  
St. John the Baptist Parish  
Starks  
Sulphur  
Sunset  
Tangipahoa  
Thibodeaux  
Tolbert  
Tullos  
Valentine  
Vermillion Bay  
Vinton  
Vivian  
Walker  
Weeks Island  
West Baton Rouge  
West Monroe  
West Pointe a la Hache  
Westlake  
Westwego  
White Castle  
Winnfield  
Youngsville  
Zachary

Albuquerque

Angel Fire

Bernalillo

Bibo

Bluewater

Carrizozo

Casa Blanca

Cerrillos

Church Rock

Cenizo

Clovis

Cuba

Deming

Eagle Nest

Elmendorf

Espanola

Farmington

Flora Vista

Gallup

Grants

Hatch

Jemez Pueblo

Jicarilla  
Apache Nation  
Reservation

La Union

Laguna Pueblo

Las Cruces

Las Vegas

Lemitar

# NEW MEXICO

POPULATION: 2,085,287

COMMUNITIES SERVED: 58

## NMED Uses Creativity, Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund & Assessment Grants to Clean Up Six Projects

New Mexico Environment Department used all of the resources at its discretion, State Response Program, Community Wide Assessment and Revolving Loan Fund Grants to provide remediation planning and assistance for all of cleanup projects it funded.

In all, four of the six projects were affordable housing developments, which demanded coordination by their sponsors of multiple grant and loan application processes, with varying timelines and requirements. It was helpful that NMED was familiar with these other funding sources, as well as with tax credit programs that provide incentives for projects to succeed.

### Steve Herrera Judicial Complex, Santa Fe

Ground water beneath the site of the new judicial complex in downtown Santa Fe was impacted by contamination from a regional plume that emanated from one or more former gasoline stations in the area.

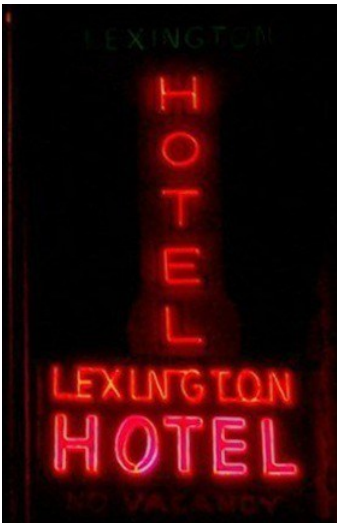
Through its State Response Program, NMED provided cleanup planning assistance



through a Targeted Brownfield Assessment (TBA) service for Santa Fe County. A \$400,000 sub-grant was signed with the County on April 1, 2011 to fund the installation of a ground water and vapor intrusion barrier system along the bottom and sub-grade walls of the entire judicial complex.

The installation was completed in May 2012 allowing the construction of the courthouse to proceed.

The County held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on December 6, 2013. The new complex provides 189,000 square feet of space for eight courtrooms and related facilities, an outdoor pedestrian plaza and 150 under-ground parking spaces.



## Lexington Hotel, Gallup

The Lexington Hotel, located on historic Route 66 in Gallup, New Mexico, dates back to 1931.

The hotel was showing its age when the nonprofit Organization, Community Area Resource

Enterprise, Inc., CARE 66, acquired the property in 2009 with its vision to provide supportive and transitional housing for low-income individuals. EPA Region 6 TBA revealed the need for asbestos abatement. NMED provided cleanup planning assistance through its State Response Program grant. On April 29, 2011, NMED signed a agreement with CARE 66 for up to \$400,000 to abate asbestos-containing materials in the structure.

The abatement was completed in November 2011, and the new facility began operating in 2012. The renovated hotel provides transitional housing for 25 individuals in dormitory-style units, and 20 single rooms as permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless individuals who suffer from mental illness or substance abuse. This employment and housing are a great benefit in a county with 89.7% minority population (the county encompasses part of the Navajo and Zuni reservations) and a poverty rate of 32.6%, more than twice the national rate.

## Luna Lodge, Albuquerque

The Luna Lodge was built in 1950 during the golden age of Route 66 tourism. One of the best remaining examples of a largely unaltered tourist motor court along Route 66, it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1998.

It was vacant and in poor repair when the nonprofit organization, NewLife Homes, selected it for an affordable housing project. In 2011, NMED provided cleanup planning assistance under its Community Wide Hazardous

Assessment grant. NMED finalized a \$100,000 sub-grant with NewLife Homes on October 26, 2011 for the abatement of asbestos-containing materials in the structure. The remediation was completed in April 2012.

The redevelopment provides 30 apartments and supportive services for low-income residents, many of whom have physical or mental disabilities. It is revitalizing an area of previous disinvestment along Route 66, and boasts platinum LEED certification. In 2013 the project received a national Historic Rehabilitation Award from the Novogradac Journal of Tax Credits. The redevelopment preserves the historical significance and Pueblo Revival style architecture of the original Luna Lodge.



## Sundowner Motel, Albuquerque

The Sundowner Motel was built in 1958-59. It operated as a motel on Route 66 and then as transitional housing for veterans until about 2009, at which time it was boarded up and vacated. The nonprofit Organization, NewLife Homes, developed a plan to rehabilitate the motel into affordable housing and requested assistance from NMED to address asbestos in the buildings.



Lindriht

Los Cerrillos Village

Los Lunas

Magdalena

McCarthy's

Milan

New Laguna

Organ

Portales

Prewitt

Questa

Raton

Regina

Rio Puerco

Roswell

San Antonio

San Mateo

Santa Domingo

Santa Fe

Santa Fe Forest

Santo Domingo

Shiprock

Silver City

Socorro

Taos

Tucumcari

Yeso



When it was time to solicit cleanup bids in 2012, however, it became clear that the original cost estimate was too low. NMED then provided additional assessment assistance.

The price tag for the remediation more than doubled as a result. NMED increased its cleanup commitment, and NewLife Homes successfully orchestrated last-minute negotiations to cover the remaining balance needed. The property transaction went forward, and the sub-grant agreement for \$250,000 was signed on November 20, 2012. Remediation was completed by April 2013.

The redevelopment was complete by the fall, and the Sundowner is now leasing, offering 71 apartments for veterans, the formerly homeless, individuals with disabilities, and low- and middle-income families. It also hosts a growers market, retail, and community space intended for small business incubators for the purpose of stimulating opportunities.

## Hooghan Hozhó, Gallup



Environmental investigations provided by the NMED revealed chlorinated solvent contamination in the groundwater and soil vapor beneath the vacant lot that was to be the site of another CARE 66 affordable housing project in Gallup. The investigations concluded that the contamination originated off-site, but it had the potential to cause a vapor intrusion problem in the new structure.

NMED provided TBA remediation planning assistance. The installation of a GeoSeal vapor barrier system was selected to protect future residents from any further issues. The infill development will provide 45 affordable family apartments, employment training services, and basement parking.

## Winrock Town Center, Albuquerque



The project to revitalize the 1960-era Winrock Mall broke ground in May 2012. When fully built-out, it will be home to a 16-screen IMAX theater, numerous retail, entertainment, restaurant, office, residential, hospitality and community venues. NMED signed an ARRA-BRLF loan agreement with Winrock Partners on March 22, 2012 for asbestos abatement. Subsequent amendments increased the loan amount to \$674,500. Remediation was completed in the Winrock Inn before its demolition, in the Montgomery Wards, and several other units in the main mall.

Remediation continues, as the cost for remediating all the buildings on the site exceeded this amount, but the ARRA-BRLF funded portion was complete by September 30, 2013.

The loan was granted at no interest. Repayment will be over a 10-year period, beginning three years after project completion.



## Legacy Uranium Mines and Mills in Grants Mining District

The Grants Mining District (GMD) in northwestern New Mexico is an area 100 miles by 25 miles where uranium mining and milling occurred between the 1950s and 1990s. These mines and mills have left a legacy of radiation and contamination in the soil, sediment and ground water north of Grants and Gallup. Tailing liquids that seeped downward through unlined impoundments at the former uranium mills contaminated ground water with radionuclides and metals. Many of the mine's underground workings required dewatering to access the ore zones; and the collected mine water was discharged to ground surface and allowed to flow into nearby arroyos and creeks where it seeped into and significantly re-saturated the shallow alluvial and underlying bedrock aquifers. Ninety-seven legacy mines have been identified in the GMD with the potential for releases of hazardous substances and threats to human health and the environment. One of these, the Jackpile Mine, located on Laguna Pueblo tribal land and once the world's largest open pit uranium mine, was placed on the National Priorities List of Superfund sites in 2013. Two former uranium mills (United Nuclear Corporation Church Rock mill and Homestake Mining Company Mill) were placed on the NPL in the 1980s and work continues to remediate ground water contamination.

### Current Status:

- EPA Region 6 and other federal, state and tribal partners have developed a five-year plan intended to compile, coordinate and guide all activities contributing to the identification and eventual cleanup these legacy mines and mills.
- EPA's Removal Program has conducted radiological evaluations at 891 residential properties and structures since 2009, primarily in Hispanic and tribal villages and properties near the Homestake NPL Site and Village of Bluewater. Abatement actions have been conducted at over 70 of these properties to address soil radiation and radon exposure in homes. Current work includes abatement actions at Mormon Farms, an area south of Homestake, and evaluations at Acoma Pueblo villages.
- EPA Region 6 and the NMED continue to investigate ground water contamination throughout the San Mateo Creek drainage basin, a 320-square-mile basin within the GMD which contains most of the legacy mines and mill sites.

## Removal Action Completed at Chevron Questa Mine

The Site consists of an operating underground molybdenum mine, milling facility, and tailing disposal impoundments owned and operated by



Chevron Mining Inc. (CMI), as well as other areas, where mining practices have resulted in the release or threatened release of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants. In March 2012, Chevron Questa Mine-CMI signed an Administrative Order on Consent to conduct Removal Actions and implement cleanup for four areas described in EPA's Record of Decision.

Removal of soils contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) was completed in October 2012. The former use of electrical transformers at the mill area has resulted in contamination of soil with PCBs, a threat to mine personnel. From July 2012 through October 2012, 3,770 tons of PCB-contaminated soil were removed from the mill area and transported offsite for disposal or incineration at permitted disposal facilities. Soil with PCBs greater than 50 parts per million (ppm) were sent for treatment-incineration at the Clean Harbors Aragonite facility in Dugway, Utah or the Clean Harbors Deer Park facility in Houston, Texas. Soil with PCBs less than 50 ppm but 25 ppm or more were sent for disposal at the Clean Harbors Deer Trail facility in Colorado.





Alma  
Alva  
Apache  
Ardmore  
Arnett  
Atoka  
Barnsdall  
Bartlesville  
Beaver  
Beggs  
Bethel Acres  
Billings  
Blackwell  
Boulangerville  
Braggs  
Buffalo  
Burns Flat  
Cardin  
Carmen  
Chelsea  
Chickasha  
Claremore  
Clinton  
Coalton  
Colbert  
Collinsville  
Criner  
Cromwell  
Cushing  
Cyril  
Dewey  
Drumright  
Duncan  
Durant

# OKLAHOMA

POPULATION: 3,850,568

COMMUNITIES SERVED: 129

... *“where the wind comes sweepin’ down the plain!”*

Moore, Oklahoma Has a History of Being Right There in the Way! The tornado of 2013—More Than Met the Media’s Eye.



What the media broadcasts... the homes and businesses destroyed, bridges damaged, trees uprooted and schools demolished, is only the top layer of impact and threats that follow such natural disasters. Left in the wake of storms are broken pipelines, leaking chemical tanks, warehouses and stores filled with hazardous materials, and thousands of containers of household hazardous waste. All those little cans and bottles of drain cleaner, paint thinner, varnishes, and drums of pool chemicals, etc. can add up to tons of waste that can poison the water and contaminate the land. The destroyed buildings create a problem with old asbestos building materials and lead paint.

The severe spring weather culminated on May 20, 2013 when tornados touched down in Moore and other nearby communities. Over 1,150 homes

were destroyed and \$2 billion dollars of damage were incurred. It was all too close to the line where an EF5 tornado hit, just ten years before, in 2003.

The challenge, for EPA, is not to  
(continued on page 15)



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interfere with the cleanup and recovery efforts, but to facilitate and ensure that the efforts are not creating a problem for the future. EPA and state partners work closely with the cities, emergency managers and private companies involved in the response. One of the most significant attributes of the 2013 response was seeing how far the response efforts have advanced in the management of this type of emergency event. The 2003 and 2013 tornados were so similar in size, location and impact that it allowed direct comparisons. In both cases, the responding agencies worked hard to provide relief, ensure safety, remove threats, and get the recovery underway. But in the 2013 response, the same hard work was occurring, while everyone was working smarter. Lessons truly had been learned in that ten-year period.

Agencies were focused on their areas of expertise and knew who to go to solve a problem. Confidence in the other responders was high and people knew things would get taken care of. In the State's Emergency Operations Center, just hours after the storms had passed for that day, there was a buzz going on as the representatives coordinated among all the Federal, State, Local and NGO (non-governmental organizations) entities. It was a calm and efficient buzz. In a few hours, it was apparent that things were well underway, and the buzz quieted down. Resources and forces were working or on their way.

## Enid Non-profit's Vision Transformed a Vacant Department Store into an Award-winning Resource Center



When the private, non-profit Community Development Support Association (CDSA), first viewed the vacant Newman Department Store, it could see what it could become. The building had a significant amount of asbestos, particularly in an abandoned boiler room area and all the windows were deteriorating and covered in multiple layers of flaking lead-based paint. The vision was to transform that blighted space on the square in downtown Enid and create a non-profit center where multiple non-profits would co-locate to share resources and reduce operating costs. The 48,000-square-foot building looked pretty sad when CDSA purchased the it. Given that the nonprofit center plans included the development of an early childhood resource center, it was very important that these potential hazards be removed.

The Brownfields Grant was an important component of the funding scenario, allowing CDSA to raise nearly \$2 million in private donations to complete the renovation. Today, eight nonprofits are housed in the center, making access to services easier for the people it serves and reducing everyone's operating costs by sharing services like the phone system, receptionist, internet connection, etc.

In May 2013, the CDSA was the recipient of an Oklahoma Main Street Award. The Non-Profit Center received the award for best adaptive reuse project in the economic restructuring division. The center also was among the top three entries in best building/business signage. Enid also was named one of the Top Ten Main Street communities.



- Edmond
- El Reno
- Enid
- Frederic
- Glenpool
- Goodwell
- Grandfield
- Granite
- Guthrie
- Haskell
- Henryetta
- Hobart
- Holdenville
- Hominy
- Hugo
- Idabel
- Jenks
- Jones
- Kaw City
- Kentwood
- Kingfisher
- Kingston
- Lake Texoma
- Lawton
- Lenapah
- Limestone
- Little Rock Creek
- Lone Grove
- Luther
- Marietta
- Maysville
- McAlester
- Medicine Park
- Medford

Miami  
Mooreland  
Muskogee  
Nardin  
Newkirk  
Noble  
Nowata  
Nowata County  
Oilton  
Oklahoma City  
Okmulgee  
Oologah  
Osage County  
Oscar  
Ottawa County  
Overbrook  
Panama  
Pawhuska  
Pawnee  
Pawnee County  
Perkins  
Perry  
Picher  
Ponca City  
Pryor Creek  
Quinton  
Ralston  
Ramona  
Ratliff City  
Red Rock  
Roll  
Rose  
Sallisaw  
Sand Springs

## Imperial Refinery Receives Ready for Reuse Determination in September 2013 and Ardmore now has 70 acres of land, ready for productive, industrial/commercial revitalization!



*Pictured above: After clean-up*

The Imperial Refining Company Superfund Site was a former refinery that operated near Ardmore, Oklahoma from 1917 to 1934. The Site was listed on the NPL in July 2000 and the Record of Decision (ROD) was signed in December 2007. Benzo(a)pyrene and arsenic in sediments and soils were established as the contaminants of concern (COCs). Construction of the remedy began in February 2008, the ROD was amended in February 2009, and

construction was completed in February 2012. During remedial action, a total of approximately 105,993 cubic yards of waste/soil and sediment were removed from the Site and shipped to an offsite landfill. Excavated areas were backfilled, graded and seeded after confirmation sampling indicated that cleanup levels had been met. The final Remedial Action Report was completed for the Site in December 2012.



*Pictured above: North Reserve prior to clean-up.*

## Oklahoma Refining Paid \$14 Million to EPA Following Seven-Year Litigation

The Oklahoma Refining Company Superfund Site is a former refinery that operated from 1920 to 1984. The property is approximately 160 acres located in Cyril, Oklahoma. The only known viable potentially responsible party (PRP) for the Site is a former owner and operator, Anderson Pritchard Company (APCO).

Fifteen litigation document productions, equaling tens of thousands of documents, were collected and processed through the Superfund Document Management Systems (SDMS) prior to being sent to the Department of Justice (DOJ).

Since electronically stored information became prominent during this case, IT systems began to be tested to maintain as much metadata as possible. With every production, the site team had to adjust its process of document collection,

review and production. To ensure consistency, for this case, for future litigation and FOIAs, the site team created templates that covered every step, as well as guidance and references for the IT process. These templates and guidance documents had been sent to DOJ prior to negotiations for the Discovery Order for the litigation cases in the Region.

A consent decree for this settlement was entered into the court on November 1, 2013. The Settlement concluded seven years of litigation with EPA receiving more than \$14 million from the APCO Liquidating Trust for future cleanup. The EPA received the funds from DOJ on January 14, 2014. This money will be used to clean up the site, hence saving the Trust Fund's money.



## “Out of the mouths of babes!” 535 Properties Remediated at Tar Creek, Oklahoma

The Tar Creek Superfund Site is located in Ottawa County, Oklahoma. It's part of a larger Tri-State Mining District that includes portions of Southwest Missouri, Southeast Kansas and Northeast Oklahoma. Blood lead testing conducted in 1994 on Indian children living within the Site indicated that approximately 35 percent of the children had blood lead levels exceeding 10 micrograms per deciliter. This area is a residential and high access area of the Site and the selected remedy was presented in the 1997 Record of Decision (ROD). The Remedial Action Objective was defined in the ROD as follows: “Reduce ingestion by humans, especially children, of surface soil in residential areas contaminated with lead at a concentration greater than or equal to 500 parts per million (ppm).” The primary remedy used to achieve attainment consists of the excavation of soils exceeding 500 ppm lead, disposal of contaminated soils in a site repository and backfilling and restoration of properties. Remedial Action (RA) work was completed from April 2010 to September 2013. Due to the large scope of work and budgeting



and planning purposes, the construction was accomplished over time through six discrete RA projects. These projects completed the remediation of 535 properties throughout the county. Approximately 28,269 cubic yards of contaminated soil were excavated and approximately 60.6 acres of land were restored during this period of time. To date, EPA has remediated approximately 3,000 properties throughout Ottawa County and current blood lead testing of children in Ottawa County indicates that less than 0.10 percent have blood lead levels exceeding the more recent 5 micrograms per deciliter threshold.

## Oklahoma Municipal League Plans New Training Facility on Former Brownfields Property Adjacent to Headquarters.

The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality awarded an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund Sub-grant to the Oklahoma Municipal League (OML). The OML acquired a derelict “Pink Building” that was located next to its Oklahoma City Headquarters. OML wanted to demolish the building in order to build a new training facility, but the old building contained asbestos. The \$200,000 ARRA sub-grant, provided by ODEQ, funded the asbestos abatement. The abatement is complete and the building has been demolished. The OML plans to provide specialized training for municipal officers and employees. The training facility will

aid local governments to function more efficiently and provide training on how to receive funds to improve communities. OML has not begun construction of the new facility at this time.



Seiling  
Seminole  
Shawnee  
Skedee  
Skiatook  
Slick  
Snyder  
Spaulding  
Stillwater  
Straight  
Stringtown  
Tahlequah  
Tiawah  
Tahlequah  
Tecumseh  
Terlton  
The Village  
Tulsa  
Union City  
Velma  
Wakita  
Waynoka  
Webber Falls  
Wetumka  
Winganon  
Wynnewood  
Yale



# TEXAS

POPULATION: 26,448,193

COMMUNITIES SERVED: 327

## Deadly Hydrogen Sulfide Gas Threatened Port Arthur



This relatively small, non-descript facility nestled in amongst its giant petrochemical neighbors along the shore of the intra-coastal water on Port Arthur's south side had already claimed the lives of two employees in 2008 and 2009. Both men had succumbed to the uncontrolled release of hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S). The toxic soup of tens of thousands of gallons of chemicals used by the former CES PACES company were left abandoned in the crumbling warehouse structure. Personnel from the U.S. Coast Guard were even forced to retreat from the facility during site inspections due to further releases of the deadly H<sub>2</sub>S gas.

EPA and TCEQ were called out to the facility on several occasions to respond to leaking tanker

trucks and containers left abandoned at the facility. The warehouse contained hundreds of drums, totes, tanks, and an onsite laboratory filled with jars of unknown chemicals. A total of nearly 200,000 gallons of acids, corrosives, and flammable chemicals were abandoned in the warehouse and some had begun to leak from their containers. Outside the warehouse, thirteen tanker trucks, still filled with chemicals, sat idle and had also begun to corrode and release their corrosive contents onto the ground. The biggest concern for the community was that a hurricane or tropical storm charging in from the nearby Gulf of Mexico could easily pull apart the deteriorating metal warehouse and a storm surge moving through the structure could carry

[\(continued on page 20\)](#)

# Hunt for “Rad” October

Many oil and gas companies use radioactive sources to log oil and gas wells. Neutron particles are emitted and “light up” the subsurface formations, which gives operators an idea of the type and structure below. In October, 2012, an Americium-241 and Beryllium composite radioactive source (commonly referred to as an AmBe), just disappeared. No one was sure exactly where... but the area was thought to be between a well location near Pecos, Texas and another well 100 miles away near Midland. Even simple contact with or even being near this source could result in permanent and severe injury. Because of the dangers associated with this source, it is normally stored in a very durable shield, called a “pig,” taking a special tool to remove it. How it came up missing was difficult to imagine.

EPA was called in and immediately began working with the Texas Bureau of Radiation Control, the company who owned the source, and other agencies to try to locate it as quickly as possible. To expedite the discovery, EPA brought in the ASPECT aircraft — EPA's sophisticated aerial platform that can perform an array of chemical and radiological assessments. The flight path followed the roads used by the convoy, which traveled from one well to the other. While the ASPECT located a few sources of radiation, initial attempts were not successful. Still the best option for a quick recovery, ASPECT was outfitted with the newest technology, larger detectors and a better analyzers. Tests and overflights proved that the enhanced instruments could find the AmBe source, if it was anywhere near the roads. The ASPECT was still unable to locate the missing AmBe source.

Many miles away from both the path traveled and the search area, the source was “found” by one of the original crew. The search team felt certain that the suggestion, “that it was just a matter of time before the search would expand to where it would be found,” encouraged the crew member to search for the source. The mystery of how the source ended up where it was discovered was never solved.

# 100% of Response Costs for Agrifos Fertilizer Recovered

Agrifos Fertilizer, LLC is based in Pasadena, Texas. The Agrifos facility is the third largest producer of ammonium sulfate (AS) fertilizer and the largest producer of synthetic granulated AS in North America. The plant's other products include ammonium thiosulfate fertilizer and sulfuric acid.

When Agrifos received a tropical storm warning, it thought it had made the temporary repairs necessary to their retaining walls to weather the 11 inches of rain predicted.

EPA issued a modified Unilateral Administrative Order (UAO) directing Agrifos to conduct an emergency controlled release from the Site to prevent a catastrophic release of hazardous substances from a 240 acre stack. The EPA oversaw these activities. When the EPA's emergency operation was completed, the Site was fully transitioned from CERCLA authority to RCRA authority under the modified UAO.

Agrifos Fertilizer LLC reimbursed EPA \$387,732 for oversight costs incurred associated with the emergency response at its facility in Pasadena, Texas.



- Bowie
- Boyd
- Brackettville
- Breckenridge
- Brenham
- Bridge City
- Brownsville
- Bryan
- Buffalo
- Burleson
- Burnette
- Byers
- Canyon
- Carrizo Springs
- Carthage
- Central Texas
- Coast
- Chandler
- Channelview
- Childress
- Chocolate Bayou
- Church Rock
- Cisco
- Clarendon
- Clarksville
- Clay
- Cleburne
- Cleveland
- Clute
- Coahoma
- Coleman
- Colleyville
- Conroe



(continued from page 18)

many of the loose containers (i.e., drums and totes) out into the surrounding sensitive coastal wetlands, waterways and inhabited areas of Port Arthur. The warehouse containing the wastes sat only 50 feet from the edge of the Intracoastal Waterway and the floor of the warehouse sat only about six feet above sea level. EPA and TCEQ realized that they had to move quickly to address the risks before a late summer or fall hurricane could move in and do serious damage. Both agencies worked side-by-side to remove the massive volume of chemicals. EPA took charge of the hundreds of containers inside the warehouse and TCEQ recovered the thousands of gallons of corrosives in the tanker trucks outside the warehouse. Over a period of 3.5 months, between August and mid-November 2012 (a total of 63 site days), EPA completed a time-critical removal action that involved the removal of the contents from 22 above ground storage tanks, 181 drums, totes and other containers, and disposal of more than 100 laboratory samples. EPA also dismantled storage tank feed lines/valves to inhibit any unauthorized future use. Waste disposed from the site containers amounted to approximately 194,387 gallons of liquid hazardous and non-hazardous liquid waste and approximately 268 tons of solid waste. TCEQ successfully removed the thousands of gallons of corrosive liquids and sludges from the thirteen tanker trucks and safely disposed of this waste.



The CES-PACES removal action was not only a success from the standpoint of environmental protection and public safety but, also as a prime example of how federal and state partners can work together and make an even greater impact than working in isolation.

## NAI Removal Action

When liquefied asphalt wastes began migrating from an abandoned dilapidated warehouse in Vernon, Texas and impacting nearby businesses, the City immediately responded and erected a soil berm to prevent further migration of the waste material. It wasn't long before the large volume of material began seeping through the temporary berm and it became apparent that significant resources would have to be expended to resolve the problem.



At the request of the City and the State of Texas, EPA Region 6 OSCs assessed the site and determined that not only were nearby businesses threatened but also the Pease River immediately down gradient from the Site. A closer look revealed approximately 200 wooden crates and 300 drums stored on the property and in the building. In February 2013, EPA initiated a removal at the location, after the responsible party did not take any action to address the issues. EPA funded the action utilizing the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund. Over the next six weeks, EPA demolished a 12,000 square-foot warehouse, and removed and disposed of 1,700 cubic yards of asphalt, asphalt-contaminated debris and 1,500 gallons of waste oil liquids from the approximately 300 drums at the Site, protecting the surrounding community from future exposure.





# Four Texas Sites Receive Ready for Reuse Determination

## Texarkana Wood Preserving Company

The Texarkana Wood Preserving Company Superfund Site occupies a 26-acre tract of land located approximately two miles southwest of the Texarkana, Texas, in an area of mixed industrial and residential land use. Vacant land is located north and south of the Site and the surrounding area is primarily undeveloped or commercial. The nearest residence and business is located approximately one-quarter-mile west of the Site. Approximately 1,000 people are located in the affected area.

The former Site used Pentachlorophenol (PCP) and creosote to treat wood. Operations began between 1946 and 1954 and ceased in 1984. The Site had been used for lumber-related activities since the early 1900s. EPA conducted five removal actions between 1986 and 1990 to address the direct exposure by humans and ecological receptors of chemicals in the exposed surface operations ponds. If a remedy had not applied to the remaining soils contamination and source material (PCP and creosote) in shallow ground water, the source material could have migrated into and contaminated deeper drinking water aquifers and the adjacent Days Creek over time.

EPA proposed a cleanup acceptable to the community and was conducted between February and September 2012.

EPA removed 9,442 cubic yards of contaminated surface soil from five localized areas, placed and confined these soils in an on-site consolidation cell, preventing exposure to human health. Five subsurface source material areas (approximate total of 46,856 cubic yards) were addressed by injecting a mixture of cement and activated carbon into the subsurface areas. This process ultimately contained and bound the source material and dissolved chemicals in those areas to prevent movement and to prevent chemicals from moving into the ground water. By addressing the source, the contaminated ground water (49,000,000 gallons) will decrease and recede onto the Site within approximately five years, with the decrease of onsite ground water contaminants in the near future. The cleanup has prevented further ground water contaminants and source material migration.

Construction was completed in September 2012 and the site achieved Construction Completion, one year ahead of schedule, at a saving of over \$6 million.

The 26-acre former wood treating site can now be redeveloped for industrial or commercial land uses that will contribute to long-term social, economic, environmental health, and revitalization of this older area of Texarkana.

(continued on next page)



BEFORE



AFTER

- Eustace
- Evadale
- Evandale
- Everman
- Ewell
- Ezzell
- Fairfield
- Farmers Branch
- Ferris
- Forest Hills
- Forney
- Fort Worth
- Freeport
- Fresno
- Friendswood
- Frisco
- Fruitland
- Gainesville
- Galveston
- Garland
- Gatesville
- Ged
- Giddings
- Gilmer
- Gladewater
- Glen Rose
- Glenn Heights
- Goodrich
- Grand Prairie
- Grapevine
- Grayson
- Greenville
- Greenwood

Groesbeck  
Gunter  
Haltom City  
Hamshire  
Happy  
Hastings  
Hawkins  
Hawley  
Hearne  
Hempstead  
Higgins  
Highland Village  
Highlands  
Hillsboro  
Hitchcock  
Houston  
Hoyte  
Humble  
Huntsville  
Hutchins  
Indian Village  
Ingleside  
Iola  
Iraan  
Irving  
Jacksboro  
Jasper  
Jefferson County  
Justin  
Karnack  
Kaufman  
Kerens  
Keller

## Texas Sites Receive Ready for Reuse Determination (cont.)

### Conroe Creosoting

Conroe Creosoting, a former wood-treating facility located in Montgomery County, Texas, occupies approximately 147 acres and operated from 1946 until March 1997. It consisted of two process areas, one tank area, a rework area, two kilns, a vehicle maintenance shop, boiler, lumber shed, a pole machine, two fuel pumps, an office, a sales office, and a retail office along with several storage sheds and storage areas. Three wood preserving processes were used at the facility, including pentachlorophenol (PCP),



creosote, and copper chromated arsenate (CCA). In September 2002, the EPA started a removal action, moving the contaminated materials, soils, sediments and solidified wastes...a total of 252,000 cubic yards...into an onsite Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA) vault. The Record of Decision (ROD), signed in 2003, outlined the selected remedy, which included monitored natural attenuation of the contaminants in the ground water, no further action for the onsite soils and offsite sediments, long-term maintenance of the RCRA vault, and placement of institutional controls. These institutional controls include the requirement to notify future property owners of the site status, restricts future water well installation and use of ground water from the SAND-1 aquifer until the ground water has been adequately remediated, restricts activities that would disturb the RCRA vault, and restricts future development to non-residential use.

The ROD considered the reasonable future use of the Conroe Site as industrial or commercial. In

June 2011, a Special Warranty Deed was filed for record that transferred ownership of the Site from Conroe Creosoting Company to East Davis Development, LLC (the transfer of property did not include the RCRA vault). It included an Environmental Easement and the Declaration of Restrictive Covenants which provides for ongoing activities that includes continuation of the ground water monitoring program and long-term maintenance of the RCRA vault. It also maintains the institutional controls that had been placed on the property. Since purchasing the property in 2011, East Davis Development,



LLC has been improving the Site for development into an industrial park. Based on data and activities observed during the second five-year review, industrial/commercial use is the planned future use for the Conroe Site.

The Site is well located amid transportation infrastructure. Found 30 miles north of Houston in Conroe, Texas, the site borders Highway 105 and has access to a rail line. Industrial and residential properties buffer the site to the west and south.

### United Creosoting

United Creosoting Company, Conroe, Texas, is approximately 40 miles north of Houston and approximately 100 acres in size. The facility operated as a wood treating facility from 1946 through 1972, and included a coal-tar distillation still, a processing building, tanks, and pressure cylinders, two waste ponds, and several areas where treated lumber was stored.

The physical characteristics of the Site have been altered by development of the property. Light

industrial structures and a portion of Tanglewood East residential subdivision currently occupy the Site. Other residential areas border the site to the north, south, and west. Industrial, commercial, and residential areas are to the east.

The remedial action required by the Records of Decision (RODs) and the ROD Amendment was implemented in three phases. The Residential Remedial Action, Phase A, was initiated in June 1992 and completed in January 1993. This action included remedial activities for 38 residential properties and five vacant lots, plus the purchase of eight properties. These properties have since been acquired by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), who purchased six residences and one residential lot in the Tanglewood East subdivision, and by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers who acquired one additional property.

The Industrial Remedial Action Phase B, was initiated in 1995. This action addressed sampling of the residential area, excavation of soil above residential and industrial action levels in the appropriate areas of the Site, consolidation of excavated soil onsite, backfill and landscaping of excavated areas, treatment of excavated soil onsite, and disposal onsite of treated soil.

Phase C remediation activities were conducted from February through August 1999, and included excavation, transport and offsite disposal of almost 30,000 tons of contaminated soil, and backfill and grading/restoration of those areas.

A Restrictive Covenant, recorded in September 2013, has been placed on the eight properties which still need to be transferred to the State of Texas.

### Sikes Disposal Pits

The Sikes Disposal Pits Superfund Site occupies a 185-acre tract and is located approximately two miles southwest of Crosby, Harris County, Texas. The Site is surrounded by undeveloped land. There are several residences located north and northeast of the site. There is also a residential subdivision approximately 500 feet Southwest of the Site and a marina is located on the Southwest corner of the site. From about 1955 until 1968, the Site was operated as an illegal open dump.

Primarily chemical wastes, such as benzene, phenols and other organic solvents, approximately 2,000 55-gallon drums and an indeterminable amount of bulk loads were discovered to have been disposed at the site. The drums were dumped along the sides of roads and bulldozed into pits and low mounds, while the bulk loads were dumped and/or pumped into pits and low-lying areas. Hydrocarbon odors from the Site became such a nuisance that local residents complained to both President Lyndon Johnson and Congress. Much of the wastes were deposited into a main waste pit surrounded by a dike, which was breached, causing the wastes to flood a large low-lying area to the east, known as the overflow area.

The EPA conducted a removal at the site in June 1983. This removal action resulted in the removal of approximately 440 cubic yards of buried phenolic tars. A ROD for the Site was issued in September 1986, addressing the threats posed by the Site. The remedy included excavation of contaminated soil and sludge, onsite incineration of excavated soil and sludge, onsite disposal of residue ash from incineration, backfilling of pits and excavated areas, treatment of contaminated surface water, institutional controls to prevent use of contaminated ground water, and monitoring of the upper and lower aquifers.

The 185-acre former disposal pit meets EPA's Ready for Reuse requirements and can now be redeveloped for industrial or commercial uses that will contribute to long-term social, economic, and environmental health, and revitalize this area.



Kennedale
Kilgore
Killeen
Kirbyville
Kirtley
Krum
La Marque
LaCoste
Lake Dallas
Landes
La Porte
Laredo
League City
Leon Valley
Levelland
Lewisville
Liberty
Liverpool
Lockhart
Longview
Lorena
Los Fresnos
Lubbock
Lueders
Lufkin
Macdona
Madisonville
Magnolia
Malakoff
Mansfield
Marshall
Mathis
McAllen



## Children Still Are More Intrigued with Mercury than Fearful—Emergency Cleanup Required...Again!



In October 2012, EPA was notified that three children had been admitted to Children's Medical Center in Dallas, Texas with neurological symptoms and rashes on their bodies. The children had found an abandoned container of more than 20 ounces of mercury, which they had accidentally spilled in their home, and at Urban Park Elementary School. They had also played with the material at Ann Richards Middle School, but were unsure if it had spilled.

One phone call to EPA Region 6 Emergency Response Program required assessing four separate, yet related, potential mercury spills throughout Dallas. After discussions with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and the American College of Medical Toxicology representatives, EPA's worked to prioritize response to the various locations in the following order: hospital, residences, and schools. The EPA team immediately conducted mercury vapor monitoring in the emergency exam room and patient rooms of the medical center. Mercury vapors were detected in a hospital trash bin and a sharp instrument container, where the bottle which had contained mercury was temporarily stored. EPA removed the mercury from the hospital to ensure the emergency room staff and patients were not further exposed.

EPA coordinated with TCEQ, City of Dallas Department of Health and Dallas Independent School District to quickly assess the two schools. The elementary school had elevated Mercury levels that required immediate cleanup. The

middle school had no detectable mercury. EPA also screened more than 270 pairs of shoes, 14 vehicles, and three homes. More than 20 pairs of shoes were contaminated and confiscated.

EPA was quick to begin the assessment of the private home where the children lived in an effort to reduce exposure to other family members or guests. Upon completion of the assessment of the main house which had low levels of detectable mercury, the EPA team assessed the guest house where the impacted family was living. The readings in the house were extremely elevated and the family was evacuated from the home. The mercury was scattered throughout the house but a concentrated source was found in a vase, along with beds, furniture and clothing, which were all contaminated and discarded.

On October 31, EPA rescreened the main house, which still had minor levels of mercury on the floor. The floor was cleaned to remove the minor traces that had been spread by foot traffic. Within three weeks of receiving the initial call, all of the liquid mercury had been recovered and the EPA cleanup was completed.

As with all environmental cleanups, public communicating is vital to success. Though this mercury spill was contained to one residential property, since an elementary school was involved, EPA knew it was important to keep the community informed about the cleanup. EPA, in coordination with state health professionals, held a meeting to help alleviate the concerns of several hundred parents. The response efforts were swift, thorough and resulted in great collaboration with other Federal, State and Local Agencies, as well as community organizations.

Having seen what a small amount of mercury can do to children, and how it can impact an entire family, at the completion of the cleanup, the EPA OSC in charge of the clean up, participated in the elementary school's "Mad Scientist Day" to inform the teachers and students of environmental hazards, the EPA mission, and environmental career choices.

[\(continued on next page\)](#)

The EPA presentation was so well received that he was invited for a repeat performance in 2013.

But the OSC's assistance didn't end with the completion of the clean up or the environmental education session. Having been around the impacted family and seeing what they had lost, he realized that the families were going to need assistance beyond what EPA or the Federal government could provide. He took the initiative to connect the family to several local charities who provided the family with resources to replace the items such as beds, a sofa, and

clothing that they lost due to the mercury response in their home.

The non-profits included American Red Cross, Knights of Columbus, Salvation Army, St Vincent DePaul, Catholic Charities, and White Rock Center of Hope. The assistance provided by these organizations ranged from vouchers and gift cards to local stores for purchases of furniture and clothing to a full Thanksgiving Day meal.

EPA has proven that they go to all lengths to not only protect human health and the environment, but restore families lives after a crisis.



### Devastation at West Fertilizer Company

On April 17, 2013, a fire and explosion occurred at the West Fertilizer Company located in West, Texas. The impact of the explosion claimed the lives of several people, most of which were local volunteer firefighters, and caused catastrophic damage to residences, senior-living homes, apartments, schools, and businesses. EPA mobilized Region 6 On Scene Coordinators to work with multiple Federal, State and Local Agencies to respond and address environmental hazards. EPA worked closely with FEMA and

Texas Department of State Health Services to assist the City of West in developing a debris management and disposal plan.

President Obama conducted an over flight assessment of the Site and attended a memorial service for the fallen fire fighters. Presentations of the EPA response have been given to multiple state and local response agencies, both civil and criminal, across the nation.

Pearsall
Pecos
Pelican Bay
Perryton
Pharr
Point Comfort
Point
Port Arthur
Port Lavaca
Port Neches
Poynor
Pritchett
Quitman
Ranger
Refugio
Rice
Richardson
River Oaks
Roanoke
Robstown
Rockport
Rockwall
Rosebud
Rusk
Saginaw
San Angelo
San Antonio
San Juan
San Marcos
Sanger
Santa Fe
Schulenburg
Seabrook





## Sulphur Spring, Texas Turns a Blighted Post Office/Library into the Showcase City Hall/Municipal Court Building...

With the help of a Brownfields Grant and \$5,000,000 in Redevelopment Funding

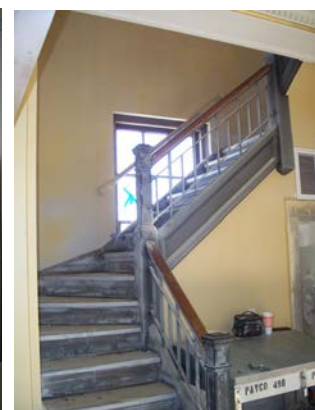
In September 2010, the City of Sulphur Springs, Texas, was awarded an EPA Brownfields Clean up Grant for the remediation of the Old City Library/Post Office. This two-story property is located in the downtown area, crucial to the redevelopment of the City. The building was originally constructed in 1912 by the Federal Government for use as a post office. The City obtained the property from the United States in 1966 for use as its Public Library. In 2000, the library moved to a new location and the building was abandoned. The City did not have the funding needed to address the suspected environmental issues and the building sat idle.

In 2009, the City of Sulphur Springs conducted a Phase I Assessment of the property and learned that the primary environmental concerns were asbestos containing materials and lead-based paint. The City reached out to the Ark-Tex Council of Governments, a current EPA Assessment Grantee, who guided them towards the EPA Brownfields program.

An asbestos survey indicated that 5,000 square feet of floor tile and mastic containing asbestos and 20,000 square feet of lead-based paint needed to be removed.

The City of Sulphur Springs applied for and received clean-up funding to remove the hazardous materials from the property. Abatement activities began in December 2011 and were completed in October 2012.

With the structure now free of contamination, the City is moving ahead with redevelopment of this property into the new City Hall/Municipal Court. It will become an essential part of Sulphur Springs' newly-revitalized downtown, creating 14 permanent jobs and leveraging over \$5 million in redevelopment funding.





## PRPs at State Marine Site Pay \$1,029,000 for Clean Up

Marine Superfund Site is a former barge-cleaning operation and municipal landfill that occupied 17 acres of land, located about 4.5 miles from the City of Port Arthur. Early Site Inspection Reports indicated that waste water from the operations was directed to two above ground storage tanks (ASTs) and then pumped to the waste water impoundments. Some of the oil from the tanks was diverted to an old ship (on land) that was used as an oil/water separator. Oil from the separator was collected for potential on-site reuse. The Site included the waste water impoundments, tar burn area, distillation column, and the Lauren Refining Company Tank Farm.



The Site is adjacent to the Palmer Barge Superfund Site and shared a former owner/operator and several generator parties. Both Sites were referred to the Departments of Justice and Transportation. EPA, DOT and DOJ agreed on the negotiations strategy, in which State Marine would be negotiated first with Palmer Barge after.

The responsible parties included:

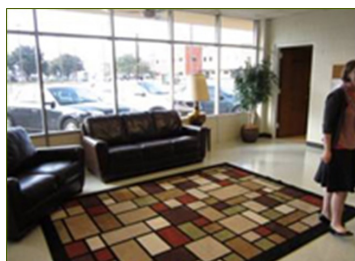
- City of Port Arthur
- American Commercial Barge Line LLC
- E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Company
- Huntsman Petrochemical Corporation
- Kirby Corporation
- Kirby Inland Marine, LP
- Phillips 66 Company
- Port Neches Towing, Inc.
- Sabine Towing and Transportation Co. Inc.

The negotiations were complicated by the garnishment actions taken by EPA from the property sale, the municipality involved and the City's inability to pay claim.

## TCEQ Brownfields Program Works for Success!

TCEQ Brownfields Program provided technical assistance and environmental site assessments to several non-profits, cities, and towns in 2013. This assistance was strategic and catalyzed much needed services and benefits for Texas communities. Some recent examples include:

### DRESS FOR SUCCESS — SAN ANTONIO



Dress for Success had an opportunity to purchase a building, but the timing was short, just two weeks. With technical

assistance from TCEQ, they were able to procure a Phase I ESA before acquiring the building, giving them bona fide purchaser status.

### ST. PHILLIPS FOOD BANK — DALLAS

St. Phillips Episcopal School in public/private partnership with City of Dallas, Trammell Crow, Kroger, and North Texas Food Bank received a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA )

from EPA and a Phase II ESA from TCEQ on a closed gas station/convenience store in south Dallas. This assistance allowed St. Phillips to receive title on the property, owned by the City of Dallas through tax foreclosure. Construction of the St. Phillips Food Bank is ongoing.

### CAPITAL METRO —AUSTIN

Capital Metro, Austin's transportation authority, received a Phase I and II ESA from TCEQ and EPA for Saltillo Rail yards. Additionally, TCEQ provided technical assistance for remediation design for the area, enabling Capital Metro to receive over \$10-million from the Department of Transportation for the design and construction of a double-track commuter rail line between Plaza Saltillo and I-35 in East Austin.



Uvalde  
Van Vleck  
Vealmoor  
Vernon  
Vidor  
Vinton  
Von Ormy  
Waco  
Wallis  
Waskom  
Waxahachie  
Weatherford  
Webster  
Weslaco  
West  
West Columbia  
Wharton  
White Oak  
Whitesboro  
Wichita Falls  
Willis  
Willow Park  
Wills Point  
Wilmer  
Windcrest  
Winnsboro  
Woden  
Woodbury  
Woodville  
Zavala

Louisiana

Chitimacha Tribe

Coushatta Tribe

Jena Band of  
Choctaw Indians

Tunica-Biloxi  
Indians

New Mexico

Pueblo of Acoma

Pueblo of Cochiti

Pueblo of Isleta

Pueblo of Jemez

Jicarilla Apache  
Nation

Pueblo of Santo  
Domingo

Pueblo of Laguna

Mescalero  
Apache Tribe

Pueblo of Nambe

Pueblo of Picuris

Pueblo of  
Pojoaque

Pueblo of Sandia

Pueblo of San  
Felipe

Pueblo of San  
Ildefonso

Ohkay Owingeh

Pueblo of Santa  
Ana

Pueblo of Santa  
Clara

Pueblo of Taos

Pueblo of  
Tesuque

Pueblo of Zia

Zuni Tribe

Eight Northern  
Indian Pueblos  
Council

# TRIBES

## Quapaw Tribe First to Lead a Remedial Action



A Cooperative Agreement for Remedial Action at the “Catholic 40” between the EPA and the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma was signed on October 1, 2012. This is the first-ever Remedial Action in the nation conducted by a Tribe on property that they own.

The Catholic 40 is a 40-acre tract of land owned by the Quapaw Tribe that has cultural and historical significance. Historical structures include remnants of a Catholic Church and school constructed in 1893. The Remedial Action will involve the excavation, hauling, and disposal of approximately 107,000 tons of source material or chat. Chat is the mine waste left at the Site from the lead and zinc mining operations. Extra precautions will need to be

taken during these activities in the areas near the historical structures in order prevent damage to them.

The Remedial Action will also include restoration (e.g., contouring, seeding, etc.) of the Site and bank stabilization of Beaver Creek in order to ensure the integrity of the remedy. Beaver Creek also has cultural and historical significance to the Quapaw Tribe. The completion of the Remedial Action by the Quapaw Tribe, according to the Record of Decision for Operable Unit 4, will enhance the Tribe’s technical capacity to perform work under the Superfund Program. Other Tribes may express an interest in performing work similar to the Remedial Action work being performed by the Quapaw Tribe at the “Catholic 40.”





## Partnerships and Collaboration Support Navajo Reservation Northeast Church Rock Mine Site

The United Nuclear Corporation Superfund Site (UNC) is located 17 miles northeast of Gallup, on the southern border of the Navajo Indian Reservation in Church Rock, McKinley County, New Mexico. The UNC Site includes a former uranium ore processing mill (25 acres) and disposal area (100 acres). A March 2013 Record of Decision (ROD) for the Site addresses contaminated surface and subsurface soil from the nearby Northeast Church Rock (NECR) Mine Site (regulated by EPA Region 9). To remove the potential threat to human health at the NECR Site, the Selected Remedy will excavate approximately 1,000,000 cubic yards of waste material from the NECR Site to dispose of at the UNC site. Disposal of mine waste from the NECR Site within the Tailings Disposal Area at the UNC Site will require acceptance by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and is contingent on an amendment of UNC's NRC license to allow for disposal.

In order to achieve success for this joint project, EPA created a cross-agency Design Team to work together on the development of the remedial design.

The members and their roles are:

- EPA Region 6—regulatory authority for ground water contamination outside of the UNC tailings

disposal area (ROD for ground water operable unit—September 1988).

- EPA Region 9—regulatory authority for NECR
- NRC—regulatory authority of the UNC tailings disposal area
- Department of Energy—will receive the Source Materials License from NRC for long-term surveillance monitoring of the UNC tailings disposal area after the NPL site has been delisted
- NMED—support agency to EPA
- Navajo Nation Environmental Superfund
- Agency (NNEPA)—support agency to EPA
- Red Water Pond Road Community funded through an EPA grant, Technical Assistance Services for Communities support for local community
- General Electric and their consultants—Potentially Responsible Party

Design Team calls are scheduled regularly to discuss issues and concerns. Teleconference calls with the RWPRCA community, NNEPA, TASC and EPA R6/R9 are also conducted monthly. The photo above shows the Inter-agency Pre-Design Team Meeting held on September 11, 2013 in Albuquerque. Teleconference calls with the RWPRCA community, NNEPA, TASC and EPA R6/R9 are also conducted monthly.

Oklahoma

Absentee-Shawnee Tribe

Alabama-Quassarte Tribal

Apache Tribe

Caddo Nation

Cherokee Nation

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes

Chickasaw Nation

Choctaw Nation

Citizen Potawatomi Nation

Comanche Nation

Delaware Nation

Delaware Tribe

Eastern Shawnee Tribe

Fort Sill Apache Tribe

Iowa Tribe

Kaw Nation

Kialegee Tribal Town

Kickapoo Tribe

Kiowa Indian Tribe

Miami Tribe

Modoc Tribe

Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Osage Nation

Otoe-Missouria Tribe

Ottawa Tribe

Pawnee Nation

Ponca Tribe of Indians

Quapaw Tribe



Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma

Shawnee Tribe

Thlopthlocco Tribal Town

Tonkawa Tribe of Indians

United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians

Wichita and Affiliated Tribes

Wyandotte Nation

Inter Tribal Environmental Council of Oklahoma

Texas

Alabama-Coushatta Tribe

Kickapoo Traditional Tribe

Ysleta del Sur Pueblo

## Brownfields Actively Supports 2013 Tribal Programs

### OKLAHOMA

#### ABSENTEE SHAWNEE



The Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma Brownfield Project, referred as the Lillard Brownfield Project, is located in Tecumseh, Oklahoma. The site was formally occupied by an oil field pipe and supply company from the 1960s until the mid 1990s that provide oil field serving operations, storage, and threading of oil field piping. The site contained two large metal shop buildings and many storage buildings containing 55 gallon drums of unknown chemicals, pipe fittings, pipe cuttings and miscellaneous oil field equipment parts. The site was scattered with tons of old oil field pipe, fittings, tires, metal shavings, petroleum fuel tanks and large oil field storage tanks.

Through the assistance of the EPA's Region 6 Brownfield Grant Program and the State of Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality Brownfield Program, the Site has been cleaned up and is ready for redevelopment.

Due to its proximity to a major highway, it was very visible to the public, city visitors and state tourist passing through the community. By cleaning this site up, blight was eliminated potential sources of pollution are removed, property values are increasing, and the Site is available for economic redevelopment opportunities for the Tribe.

In the process of cleaning up the Site, approximately 90 percent of the materials, from the metal buildings and the concrete slabs, to the metal piping, debris, fencing, and soil, have been recycled. At the startup,

the Tribe began the project by recycling the large oil field storage tanks that scattered the Site. The Tribe recycled the tanks through reuse, by entered into an agreement with a local Vocational School, Eastern Oklahoma County Technology Center (EOC). The Tribe donated ten of the tanks and one pumper jack to the school's Fire Academy Training Center. The Fire Academy is using the large oil field tanks to train future first responders on large oil tank fires.

After the removal of the large oil field tanks, approximately 156 truck and car tires and were taken to Holcim Cement Plant in Ada, Oklahoma for use in the heating process of the plant operations.

Then two large metal shop buildings and the many storage buildings were dismantled, concrete foundations removed and recycled, along with tons of metal oil field piping, fittings, scrap and oil field pipe fencing. Approximately 58 tons of steel were taken to a local steel recycler. The concrete from the building foundations and the large concrete debris were also recycled by the general contractor. Approximately 378 cubic yards of concrete were removed and recycled. The concrete was crushed and washed at a local concrete facility, and used as for rip rap, soil stabilization and on gravel drives and roads.

Finally, 668 tons of contaminated soil was exposed, removed and taken to a landfill to be used as cover. The trees and shrubs were removed and turned into approximately 250 cubic yards of mulch.

### IOWA TRIBE

Iowa Recycling Center used to be a Sawmill Site that was built in the 1950s. At the time of the Site reconnaissance, there were six structures located on 14.86 acres. The Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma purchased this property in 2006 and asked Inter-Tribal Environmental Council (ITEC) to conduct a Phase I ESA on this property for redevelopment purposes. ITEC completed the Phase I in March 2011. Since that time all of the buildings, except for

one, have been demolished, an underground storage tank with waste oil inside has been removed properly, and the new recycling center has been constructed where the Sawmill Site was located.

The Recycling Center is currently providing slightly under two, full-time jobs for tribal members. The operational cost is paid by the Tribe but the center has sold recyclables, making about \$11,000 last year. Currently 179,868 pounds have been recycled and diverted from the landfill.

## NEW MEXICO

### COCHITI PUEBLO

Cochiti Pueblo started working with EPA, NMED, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and Pena Blanca Water Authority in August 2013. There was a need to address the potential impacts from abandoned Cochiti Gravel Mine on area, including a drinking water well located in Pena Blanca, but adjacent to mine. EPA Brownfields Program is coordinating with Emergency Response Branch, Tribal Office, Site Assessment Section within EPA Region 6 and outside of EPA with NMED's Drinking Water Bureau and NMED's Brownfields Program to identify resources available to assist Cochiti Pueblo with identifying and confirming impacts from abandoned mine operations. The EPA Targeted Brownfields Assessment Program set aside funding to undertake a Phase I and II ESAs. NMED's Drinking Water Bureau is working with Pena Blanca Water Authority to develop a second source for a drinking water well in the area and noted that Pena Blanca drinking water well will be sampled in 2014.

Because the Cochiti Pueblo Governor serves a one year term, the new Governor entered office in January 2014. Requests from Cochiti Pueblo for formal assistance were delayed until the new Governor was briefed and agreed with the action to request formal assistance.

### EIGHT NORTHERN INDIAN PUEBLO COUNCILS (ENIPC)

The partnership between NMED, ENIPC and EPA produced a vision planning meeting to redevelop the McCarty School in Acoma Pueblo using the Technical Assistance to Brownfields grantee, Kansas State University.

NMED and ENIPC assisted Picuris Pueblo with closed gymnasium by identifying environmental impacts from a leaking roof and briefing Picuris Pueblo tribal government on the priority to secure funding to repair roof before addressing mold within the structure.

EPA worked with ENIPC to purchase XRF equipment under 128a grant. The XRF equipment will assist ENIPC with future lead based paint surveys and risk assessment determinations for structures.

### LAGUNA PUEBLO

Brownfields Assessment grantee, NMED, has completed a Phase I ESA on the 300+ acre Kawaika Center Redevelopment Area and a limited asbestos survey of one of the buildings located within the redevelopment area. NMED will complete a Phase II ESA priority area within redevelopment area by June 2014.

### SANTA CLARA PUEBLO

Santa Clara Pueblo requested Targeted Brownfields Site Assessment Assistance from NMED for the closed Santa Clara Judicial Complex to identify costs for abating asbestos and then demolishing current structure. NMED will complete Phase I ESA and asbestos abatement cost estimate for Santa Clara Judicial complex in March 2014. Upon completion of Phase I ESA and costs estimates for abatement, Santa Clara Pueblo will undertake abatement of asbestos in structure, and then demolish structure to prepare site for rebuilding of new judicial building.

### SANTA DOMINGO PUEBLO

Santa Domingo Pueblo has requested a cleanup plan and analysis of Brownfields cleanup alternatives for a closed manufactured housing company. NMED has completed the cleanup plan and the ABCA completion is expected in December 2014.

### TAOS PUEBLO

Taos Pueblo requested Targeted Brownfields Assessment Assistance from NMED for the Taos Community and Health Services Building. NMED will finalize Phase I ESA in March 2014. NMED funds are limited, so if a Phase II ESA is requested by Taos Pueblo, NMED may have to refer to EPA Targeted Brownfields Assessment Program.

### ZUNI PUEBLO

At the request of Zuni Pueblo, EPA in conjunction with NMED completed Phase II ESA for a closed Malco gas station and the Zuni Airport Sites. The closed gas station is located on Highway 53 on the "main street" section that traverses Zuni Village. The Zuni Airport future redevelopment plan is to provide a site for a medical care flight operation for the area.

Sac & Fox Nation

Seminole Nation

Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma

Shawnee Tribe

Thlopthlocco Tribal Town

Tonkawa Tribe of Indians

United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians

Wichita and Affiliated Tribes

Wyandotte Nation

Inter Tribal Environmental Council of Oklahoma

Texas

Alabama-Coushatta Tribe

Kickapoo Traditional Tribe

Ysleta del Sur Pueblo

## Region 6 Coordinates with the Santa Ana Pueblo to Host National Tribal Conference

The Pueblo of Santa Ana located near Albuquerque, New Mexico, hosted the 2013 Tribal Lands and Environment: A National Forum on Solid Waste, Emergency Response, Contaminated Sites, and Underground Storage Tanks Conference on August 19-22. This conference was a joint effort of the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP), The National Tribal Waste and Response Assistance Program Steering Committee, and EPA's Office of Solid Waste and

Emergency Response (OSWER). This is the fourth annual forum to be held and the first hosted by a Region 6 Pueblo, with a record attendance of over 350 people.

Environmental professionals from tribes; EPA; other federal, state, and local agencies; and other interested parties come together to meet, share knowledge and learn from one another on how to improve the management and protection of tribal lands and human health.



*EPA Assistant Administrator Mathy Stanislaus, left, and Region 6 Administrator Ron Curry, right, were keynote speakers at the 2013 Tribal Lands and Environment Conference.*



## Santa Clara Pueblo Hosts Environmental Site Tours

The Santa Clara Pueblo located north of Santa Fe, New Mexico, hosted a day of site tours highlighting environmental concern Areas, during the Tribal Lands Forum



Conference, August 19. Assistant Administrator Mathy Stanislaus, Regional Administrator Ron Curry, EPA staff, field representative from Senator Heinrich's and Senator Udall's offices and other federal agency staff met with Dino Chavarria, Assistant Director of Environmental Affairs with the Pueblo.

Participants first met with Santa Clara Pueblo Governor Bruce Tafoya and his staff for introductions and a safety briefing. The tour began with one of the Pueblo's primary areas of concern, the Las Conchas Wildfire area, the largest wildfire in New Mexico history to date. The wildfire burned through a canyon

and a recreational area, located down gradient of the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). The Pueblo is concerned about radioactive contaminants migrating from LANL. With the destruction of many trees during the wildfire, landslides are prevalent during the rainy seasons and have destroyed dams, runoff controls along the stream and caused devastating erosion problems. The old village of Santa Clara is being threatened by these issues.

The tour continued with visits to areas of illegal dumping and concluded at the North Railroad Avenue Plume Site, which is on the National Priority List.





## Amy Garcia, Laguna Pueblo, Wins 2013 Citizen Excellence in Community Involvement Award

Amy Garcia of Laguna, New Mexico, was recognized by EPA as the winner of the 2013 Citizen Excellence in Community Involvement Award. This annual award recognizes an individual or a community group who has worked with an EPA Superfund Team and has demonstrated outstanding achievements in the field of environmental protection and community leadership during the site cleanup process.

The EPA selected Ms. Garcia for her commitment and dedication to her community, where residential properties throughout the six villages within the Pueblo of Laguna are contaminated from uranium mines. Her efforts to ensure the community remained informed and engaged in EPA's decision-making processes was exemplary. Ms. Garcia's dedication to community engagement at the Pueblo of Laguna villages assisted EPA in obtaining access

agreements for over 500 residential properties, as well as serving as a liaison to the Pueblo, which greatly improved the successfulness and effectiveness of EPA's cleanup efforts, keeping tribal members and homeowners informed every step of the way. Her assistance also allowed EPA staff and contractors to be well informed of tribal customs and protocols.

By scheduling individual village meetings to ensure EPA and village members understood procedures, information was disseminated in a timely manner leading to the successful completion of the cleanup.

Ms. Garcia's work ensured the tribal members' interests in the future use of the land were taken into consideration during the assessment and remediation. We applaud her dedication and thank her for her outstanding community service.



*Assistant Administrator Mathy Stanislaus presented the award to Ms. Garcia. From left: Guest speaker, Ron Solimon, Center for Lifelong Education at Institute of American Indian Art; Amy Garcia, Mathy Stanislaus, EPA; Anna Marie Chischilly, ITEP.*



*Shown with Ms. Garcia receiving her award are Warren Zehner, EPA; Sharon Keryta, her mother; Amy Garcia; Mathy Stanislaus, EPA; Ann Marie Chischilly, ITEP; and LaDonna Turner, EPA.*

## Suspected Contaminated Wood Could Be Baking Bread in Laguna Pueblo

A request was received from the Head Mayordomo of the Pueblo of Laguna to sample a traditional oven (called a "horno"), located in the Village of Mesita. This request was supported by Director of Laguna Environment and the Chief Operating Officer. The oven had been used by a local bakery to bake bread which was then sold in two convenience stores, located on the Laguna Pueblo, to tribal members, as well as the general public. Tribal officials had noticed that treated wood (i.e. railroad ties and telephone poles) were being burned in this oven and spoke to the baker about stopping the use of treated wood in the baking process, but this practice continues.

The tribe felt that if EPA would sample the oven that the baker would be forced to stop using the oven until the sampling results were received. Then, if the presence of treated wood contaminants was found, it would allow the tribe to permanently decommission the oven. The tribe has indicated that they are willing to build a new oven for the baker, but felt that the testing would allow them to remove potentially contaminated bread from the two stores where it was being sold.

The oven was sampled in September 2012 for hazardous constituents and the results given to the Laguna Environmental Department. They spoke to the homeowner who was

baking the bread and discouraged her from using creosoted treated wood in the ovens. The Laguna Environment Department also put this information on a web site so that tribal members would be aware of the hazards burning this wood in the ovens and shared it with Acoma Pueblo Environmental Protection Agency, as well.



## Jackpile-Paguate Uranium Mine Placed on NPL List

### *Work begins on clean up of the world's largest open pit mine*



*Pictured above, a 1956 photo of activities at the Jackpile-Paguate Uranium Mine.*

The Jackpile-Paguate Uranium Mine Site, which operated from 1952 to 1983 and was known as the world's largest open pit uranium mine, is located on the Pueblo of Laguna near Albuquerque, New Mexico. The Pueblo leased 7,868 acres leased to Anaconda Mining Co. of which 2,658 acres disturbed by mining. About 400 million tons of earth was removed from open pits and about 25 million tons of ore produced. At peak production, the mine operated 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

At the request of the Pueblo, Region 6 performed a Preliminary Assessment/Site Investigation (PA/SI) and then an Expanded Site Inspection (ESI) for possible inclusion on the National Priority List (NPL). The Laguna Pueblo provided the Region 6 Jackpile-Paguate Site Team with over

1,400 "stamped as confidential" documents that were potentially relevant to the investigation. After the Site was proposed to the NPL in March 2012, Region 6 received a FOIA request for all documents relating to the Site. Many of the documents pertained to Site history, which the team knew would be of interest to the FOIA requestor, a former operator of the Site, were "stamped as confidential." Not providing these documents would likely lead to a FOIA appeal and the final NPL listing could be contested.

Over the course of a few months, through many collaborative sessions, both the Region 6 Site Team and the Laguna Pueblo reviewed the 1,400 confidential documents, one by one, and a consensus was reached for over 99% of the documents. Currently,

the majority has been declassified and released under FOIA.

As a result of this exercise, the EPA Site team has built a stronger and more open relationship with the Laguna Pueblo. The Site was placed on the NPL in December 2013, creating a win-win situation for both the EPA and the Pueblo of Laguna.



*Pictured above, an aerial of the extent of the mining operation.*



## Region 6 Removal Activities Assist the Laguna and Acoma Pueblos Assess Contamination on Their Tribal Lands in the Grants Mineral Belt



*Pictured left: A piece of radioactive petrified wood, located in a residential yard. Pictured right : The new modular home, pictured at bottom, was purchased by EPA and replaced the rock and mud mortar traditional home that had elevated radon levels, above, located on the Pueblo of Laguna.*

The Grants Mineral Belt is a complicated network of legacy uranium mines that spans two EPA Regions. Region 9 first began conducting structural assessments on residential properties on Navajo Tribal Lands in Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah, in 2007 funded by a congressional appropriation.

When Region 6 was contacted by NMED in 2009 to assess communities in proximity to legacy uranium mining and milling operations in New Mexico, they coordinated the assessment activities with Region 9 to ensure that there was consistency with the approaches used, i.e. the number of action memo written and approved to allow the soil cleanup and the demolition of traditional houses. Uranium mining and milling activity was very active from 1952 to 1990 in the vicinity of Grants and Gallup, New Mexico, in the Northwestern part of the state. The Pueblo of Laguna and Pueblo of Acoma were also contacted to determine their interest in having assessments completed, at that time. After meeting with the Environment Departments of both the Pueblos of Laguna and Acoma, the Governors of both Pueblos, and the Tribal Councils, they agreed to the assessments.

Initially, the ASPECT plane was used to indicate areas of gross radiation contamination. The impacted areas were

then targeted for structural assessments utilizing a baby buggy, with a radiation meter; a computer; and a GPS unit. These surveys were conducted in the Cebolleta Land Grant (Bibo, Moquino, and Seboyeta Villages), Village of San Mateo, Pueblo of Laguna, (Villages of Paguete, Encinal, Laguna, Mesita, Paraje, and Seama). Region 6 also conducted assessments in the Village of Bluewater near the former Bluewater uranium mill and in the five neighborhoods south of former Homestake uranium mill, which is currently listed on the NPL.

To date, the Region 6 Response Team has completed 891 structural assessments in the Grants Mineral Belt. And as a result of the assessments, three removal actions were completed in 2013—Middle Reservoir, Rio San Jose, and Oak Canyon Sites, which are located on the Pueblo of Laguna.

Two additional Action Memos have been signed for removal activities in Mormon Farms, which is adjacent to the Homestake NPL Site, and the Bluewater Radiological Site. Both of these actions will begin in 2014. More removal actions are anticipated on the Cross Roads Site, which is located south of the Ambrosia Lake Area and the Canyon Largo Site, which is located on the Pueblo of Acoma in the near future.



# REGIONAL

## Reducing Footprint to Save Money—The Records Archiving Project



The Region 6 Superfund Record Management Team (RMT) led an intense, thorough plan to archive over 1,200 boxes of records and send them to the Federal Records Center (FRC). This effort decreased the amount of square footage needed for Superfund enforcement and litigation records by 20%.

The RMT developed and Implemented a phased approach for 35 sites, and assisted by RMT trained teams with members from all Superfund Division branches and coordination with Management Division, reviewed more than 2,800 boxes to clear records from EPA space and send over 1,200 boxes to the FRC in nine months, for archiving.

There were numerous challenges, e.g., keeping up with document production for litigations while



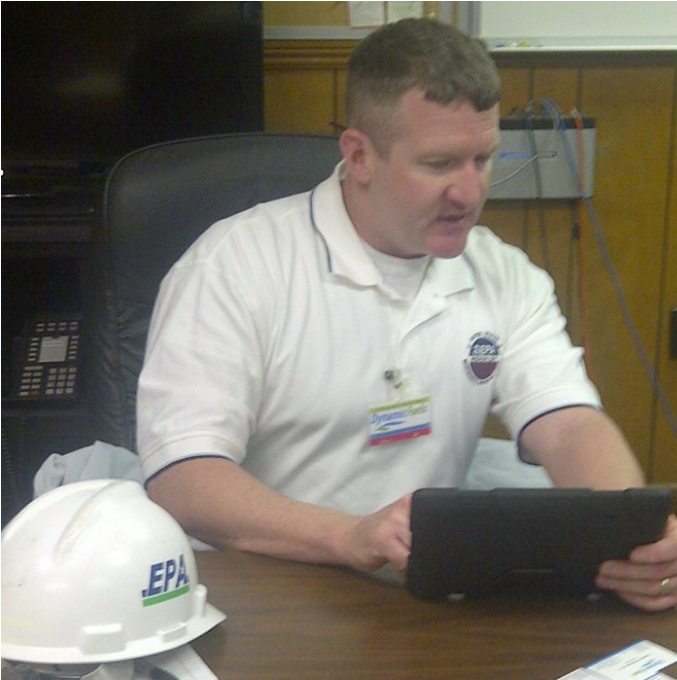
maintaining the progress of achieving project; combining the information from the two Superfund Document tracking systems in order to begin their review; reboxing to comply with FRC standards; etc.

Once the site teams reviewed the records, the records were re-boxed to comply with FRC standards and then transferred to the FRC. Due to this enormous effort, the remaining boxes are now well organized and more accessible to the public for FOIA processing.

Most importantly, this effort developed a team spirit and better relationship among the divisional and regional staff enabling the Region to better manage the Superfund enforcement and litigation records.

## Oil Spill Prevention & Preparedness Begins with Hard Work, Dedication and Innovation

Region 6 is home to over 250,000 facilities that store over 1320 gallons of oil. With the recent increase in domestic oil and gas productions, those numbers are surely increasing every day. The responsibility of ensuring that facilities take steps to prevent oil spills, have adequate response procedures and resources and adequately respond to spills is EPA's job.



The Region's oil prevention and enforcement teams are tops in the country in several categories including: conducting the most compliance inspections, settling the most oil spill and inspection enforcement cases, and bringing the highest percentage of facilities back into compliance.

The Region also continued to build on its very successful Coastal Initiative, which focuses on protecting the coastal waters of the US from the impacts of oil spills. It is a tough assignment overseeing 110,000 wells and 600 regulated facilities along the Gulf Coast of Southern Louisiana and Texas with the limited resources of three inspectors and two enforcement officers. The Coastal Initiative has several components including outreach, inspections which are required by statute every five years, and preparedness exercises to inform coastal operators of their responsibility under the Clean Water Act's Oil Pollution Act and to enact change to ensure better oil spill prevention.

A key component of the initiative was a steadfast commitment to enforcement accountability through the issuance of administrative penalties for all significant violations. The Team leveraged resources from partnership agencies including the LDEQ, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LDNR) and US Coast Guard (USCG). The alliance between agencies fostered team work, prioritized the work and provided a unified message for the implementation of oil spill prevention regulations. The USCG and the state agencies visit the facilities on an annual basis. Since they had a larger presence in the area, the Coastal Initiative Team provided the State agencies and the USCG with training to raise their awareness of the EPA regulations and the deficiencies being noted by EPA inspectors. This partnership and training resulted in the agencies working together to conduct Government Initiated Unannounced Exercises (GUIEs) at facilities in the coastal area to improve compliance and response procedures.

A new initiative begun this year was the electronic Facility Response Plan (FRP) Initiative. The Region's highest risk facilities are required to submit FRPs. Historically, these were in a hard copy format. In addition to electronic copies being easier to manage and more accessible to responders, industries have also indicated that they find it more convenient and cheaper to submit. In 2013, Region 6 saw a 400% increase in the number of electronic FRPs submitted.

The hard work, dedication and innovative approaches to challenges the Oil Response Team takes, was recognized by the DFW Federal Executive Board (FEB). The team was the 2013 FEB Interagency Collaboration Award recipient.

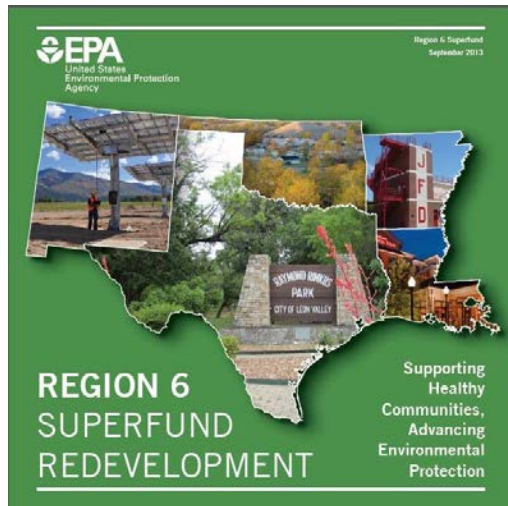


*Pictured above: Roberto Bernier, Bryant Smalley, Chris Perry, Jamie Bradsher, the family of Beau Smith and Jamie Bradsher.*



# 2013 Superfund Reuse and Redevelopment

## Region 6 Superfund Redevelopment Booklet



The Regional Superfund Reuse program developed and published the first Region 6 Superfund Redevelopment Highlights booklet. This booklet showcases Superfund sites in reuse and redevelopment across Region 6. The report highlights renewable energy utilization and production at R6 Superfund sites; mixed use, ecological, and recreational reuses; and also showcases examples of green remediation at Regional Superfund sites.

## Green Remediation at Superfund Sites



The Superfund Reuse program completed a case study entitled: Finding a Market for Recovered Creosote - Green Remediation at the American Creosote Works, Inc. (Winnfield Plant) Superfund Site in Northern Louisiana. This case study explains how EPA forged an agreement with a chemical manufacturing and distribution company that will enable EPA to sell the creosote recovered from the site for use in wood treatment instead of paying to have it disposed of at a waste incinerator facility. The recycling of recovered creosote at this site is a first of its kind in green remediation efforts at creosote Superfund sites across the country.

## 2013 Return To Use Superfund Showcase

In 2013, Region 6 showcased the mixed use revitalization at Fruit Avenue Plume in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Redevelopment of this former dry cleaning property is contributing to the economic revitalization of a historic area. A new affordable apartment complex earned a high Energy Star rating for energy efficiency. A coffee shop in the development also offers on-site job training to help once homeless community members re-enter the job market.



## Prospective Purchaser Superfund Reuse Support Tools

2013 was a busy year to buy and sell Superfund sites in Region 6! The Regional Reuse program provided assistance and support to a number of prospective purchasers of Superfund sites across our five states. Assistance and support can range from coordinating and participating in Prospective Purchaser Inquiry calls with the site team; providing comfort/status letters for Superfund sites in our Region; discussing and educating prospective buyers of Superfund sites about CERCLA liability, liability protections and due diligence requirements in the All Appropriate Inquiry Rule; providing information on the status of enforcement and liens, including the resolution of Superfund and windfall liens; and much more. This support and more was provided at the following Superfund sites in 2013: Double Eagle Refinery, South Cavalcade, Ruston Foundry, North Railroad Avenue Plume, West County Road, Tex Tin OU4, Malone Services, Conroe Creosoting, Donna Canal and Texarkana Wood.



# Superfund 2013 Accomplishments

Number of Superfund-lead removal actions completed	14
Number of voluntary removal actions, overseen by EPA, completed	38
Number of Superfund sites ready for anticipated use site-wide	5
Number of Superfund final site assessment decisions	4
Number of Superfund remedial site assessment decisions	59
Number of Records of Decision finalized	4
Number of remedial action projects completed at Superfund NPL sites	4
Superfund sites with human health protection achieved (exposure pathways are eliminated or potential exposures are under health-based levels for current use of land or water resources)	1
Number of Superfund hazardous waste sites with groundwater migration under control	1
Number of risk management plan audits completed	110
Number of Brownfields properties assessed.	97
Number of Brownfield properties cleaned-up using Brownfield funds	11
Each year through 2012, reach a settlement or take an enforcement action before the start of a remedial action at 95% of Superfund sites having viable, liable	100%
Each year through 2012, address all Statute of Limitations cases for Superfund sites with unaddressed total past costs equal to or greater than \$500,000	100%
For 100% of the financial test submissions received each fiscal year for corrective action with cost estimates over \$5 million, determine whether the submission is in compliance	100%

# Region 6 Staff Recognition and Honors

## NATIONAL HONOR AWARDS

### SILVER MEDAL FOR SUPERIOR SERVICE

Re-Powering America's Land Team:  
**Karen Peycke**

*For exceptional efforts developing a new program bringing together two Administration priorities, cleaning up contaminated sites and promoting clean energy, to support revitalized, sustainable communities. Through the close collaboration and sustained leadership of cross office and regional work over the past few years, RE-Powering America's Land Initiative targets potentially contaminated lands, landfills, and mines, as sites for renewable energy installations, such as wind turbines and solar panels.*

### FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP AWARD

Malone Service Company Team:  
**David Abshire, I-Jung Chiang, Doretha Christian, Anne Foster, Kevin Shade, Patrice Miller (retired).**

*For exceptional innovation and implementation of a financial management strategy of special accounts.*

### SUPERFUND INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR

**Doretha Christian**

*In recognition for her outstanding leadership, initiative, coordination, and collaboration in Special Account Management that increased the Region's resources and effectiveness.*

### SUPERFUND SITE REMEDIATION ENFORCEMENT AWARD

Technical Enforcer

**Kevin Shade**

*In recognition for his extraordinary efforts in support of the Region RPMs and OSCs, including exceptional PRP search efforts and support of the Region's cost recovery efforts in litigation and settlements.*

## OFFICE OF SOLID WASTE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE AWARDS

### Team Excellence Awards

### THE SUPERFUND ACQUISITION STRATEGY INTEGRATED PROJECT TEAM

**Carlene Chambers**

*In recognition for their exemplary leadership and direction to develop recommendations for new and modified acquisition vehicles for the Superfund program.*

### NATIONAL EPA DATA TEAM

**Eric Delgado**

*In recognition for highly successful implementation of a National Common Operating Picture Interactive Map for Emergency Response and Removal Operation.*

## BRONZE MEDALS

The Bronze Medal is the highest honor award an employee can receive from the Regional Administrator.

### INDIVIDUAL

**David Abshire**

*For outstanding contract and construction management of the remedial action for the Texarkana Wood site which resulted in protecting human health and saving \$6 million.*

### INDIVIDUAL

**Jamie Bradsher**

*For implementing efficiencies within the Oil Pollution Act enforcement program resulting in a more efficient and cost-effective process for transmitting inspection reports and supporting documents between field inspectors and enforcement officers.*

### TREECE BUYOUT TEAM

Gary Baumgarten, Janetta Coats, Kathy Gibson and James Costello

*In recognition for the successful completion of the buyout of the town of Treece, Kansas.*

### ASARCO EL PASO OVERNIGHT OF BANKRUPTCY TRUSTEE SMELTER CLEANUP TEAM

**Charles Fisher**

*For significant enhancement of community understanding of ongoing cleanup activities at the ASARCO Site.*

### ARKANSAS WASTE TO ENERGY SITE TEAM

**Cynthia Brown, Althea Foster and George Malone**

*In recognition of team's exceptional planning, efficiency and coordination which resulted in recovering \$4,287 million in past costs and saving \$5.248 million in work.*

### GRIGGS AND WALNUT SUPERFUND SITE TEAM

**Petra Sanchez and Cathy Gilmore**

*For successfully coordinating with the New Mexico Finance Authority to allow continued progress and funding on the Griggs and Walnut Superfund Site Team.*

## FOIA TEAM

**Diana Ortiz and Dwayne Patrick**

*For diligently and conscientiously processing Freedom of Information Requests in an efficient and effective manner, while providing responsive materials within the specified timeframe.*

## VAPOR INTRUSION TEAM

**Brenda Cook, Bret Kendrick, Kenneth Shewmake, LaDonna Turner, Chris Villareal and Gregory Fife**

*In recognition for the development of the new Regional investigative approach around the field capabilities of the HAPSITE ER instrument.*

## JOHNNY M MINE SITE TEAM

**Pamela Travis, Lisa Price, Kevin Shade, Elizabeth Pletan, Jon Rinehart and Warren Zehner**

*In recognition for their efficiency and innovation in negotiating 100 percent future removal work, oversight and past costs.*

## ENCASE LITIGATION HOLD MODULE TEAM

**Pamela Travis, Jacob Piehl, Courtney Kudla and Stephen Capuyan**

*For extraordinary efforts in the Implementation of the EnCase Litigation Hold Module by mastering the complex and evolving system and ensuring that the Region meets obligations of Federal law.*

## FEDERAL FACILITIES SITE EVALUATION PROJECT TEAM

**John Meyer**

*In recognition for the outstanding contribution to open government, transparency and advancing cleanup of contaminated sites at federal facilities.*

## REGIONAL HONOR AWARDS

### BUCK J. WYNNE AWARD

**John Martin**

*For his leadership and dedication towards successful collaboration with Federal, State and local stakeholders on the implementation of the Bio Watch program.*

### EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AWARD

**Charles Faultry**

*In recognition of his efforts in championing diversification in Region 6.*

## CROSS DIVISIONAL AWARDS

### THE CLEAN ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE WORKGROUP TEAM

**Casey Luckett-Snyder**

*In recognition for their efforts to effectively position Region 6 to plan for and respond to climate change impacts.*

## SMALL PROGRAMS AWARDS

### TOOL FOR DECONSTRUCTING BUILDINGS AND RECYCLING MATERIALS TEAM

**Karen Peycke and Rena McClurg**

*For successful development and implementation of a practical tool to help tribes and small communities pursue green approaches to revitalization.*

### SECRETARY/ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AWARD

**Stephanie Delgado**

*For outstanding efforts in the operation of the Superfund Division.*

## SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

**Frankie Markham**

*For her can-do attitude and commitment to excellence for all she undertakes. She has proven that no task is too small or too large for her to accomplish.*

## ADMINISTRATIVE AWARD

**Patricia Sonntag**

*For her outstanding initiative in Special Accounts management that helped increased the Region's resources and her willingness to promote customer service and WE CARE values within the Region.*

## REGIONAL INNOVATION AWARD

### LONGHORN ARMY AMMUNITION PLANT PHYTO-FORENSICS TESTING TEAM

**Phil Turner and Kent Becher (USGS)**

*For successful pilot-scale demonstration of a less expensive and less invasive method of characterizing ground water contamination.*

## LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARDS

### 30 YEARS

Elizabeth Rogers, Lawrence Andrews, Phillip Allen, Marvin Benton

### 25 YEARS

Gary Baumgarten, James Costello, Charles Fisher, David McQuiddy, John Rauscher, Petra Sanchez, Laura Stankosky, Pamela Travis, Warren Zehner

### 20 YEARS

Paul Johnson, Jr.





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